

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 SP-02 /046 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:BEPERCIVAL
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE
D/HA - MR. JONES(INFO)
-----049804 161951Z /40

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041258

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SHUM, PINT, IN, NP, US

SUBJECT:G.P. KOIRALA TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR

REF: NEW DELHI 2539

1. WE BELIEVE A MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND G.P. KOIRALA MIGHT BE MISCONSTRUED BY GON AS SUGGESTING COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND INDIANS ON KOIRALA ISSUE. FURTHER, BELIEVE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN J.P. NARAYAN, A POLITICAL AND MORAL LEADER OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE, AND G.P. KOIRALA, A LEADER OF BANNED NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY. SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT G.P. MAY BE RECEIVED EITHER BY AMBASSADOR HECK, WHO IS PASSING THROUGH DELHI ON THE 17TH, OR O'CONNELL. COMMENT ON MEETING SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT PURPOSE WAS TO LISTEN TO WHAT G.P. HAD TO SAY ON THE STATE OF B.P. KOIRALA'S HEALTH AND NOT TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF THE
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NEPALESE SITUATION.

2. FYI: DESPITE A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY B.P. AT DEATH'S DOOR, ALL INFORMATION WE HAVE INDICATES THAT HE IS IN REASONABLY SATISFACTORY HEALTH. DOCTORS WHO TREATED KOIRALA IN NEW YORK WROTE PUBLIC LETTER JANUARY 20 STATING THAT

THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT KOIRALA SUFFERED EPISODES OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, LIGHTEADEDNESS, AND FAINTING. HOWEVER,

AFTER DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR HECK IN NEW YORK, DR. BRACHFELD, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY DENIED ACCESS TO KOIRALA IN KATHMANDU, AGREED TO WRITE LETTER TO GON INQUIRING ABOUT KOIRALA'S HEALTH. KOIRALA'S LAWYER, WHO MET WITH HIM ON JANUARY 30, TOLD DCM THAT KOIRALA LOOKED LESS WELL THAN HE HAD IN NOVEMBER AND HIS VOICE WAS WEAKER, BUT LAWYER DID NOT EXPRESS ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT STATE OF B.P.'S HEALTH.

3. FYI: FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON KOIRALA ISSUE: IF ASKED ONLY

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING ABOUT THE IMPRISONMENT OF NEPAL'S FORMER PRIME MINISTER, B.P. KOIRALA?

A. WE ARE CAREFULLY FOLLOWING MR. KOIRALA'S CASE AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT HIS HEALTH TO THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT. MR. KOIRALA FACES SEVERAL CRIMINAL CHARGES IN NEPAL.

Q. ACCORDING TO A LETTER FROM KOIRALA'S DOCTORS IN NEW YORK, HE IS EXTREMELY ILL AND SHOULD COME TO THE U.S. FOR FURTHER MEDICAL TESTS.

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A. NEPALESE DOCTORS ARE EVALUATING MR. KOIRALA'S HEALTH. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HIS CONDITION IS IMPROVED.

Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT MR. KOIRALA'S AMERICAN DOCTORS TO EXAMINE HIM?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL HAS IMPLIED THAT FURTHER MEDICAL ATTENTION, IF NECESSARY ABROAD, WOULD BE CONSIDERED IF RECOMMENDED BY MR. KOIRALA'S TEAM OF NEPALESE PHYSICIANS. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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